

Tower Grove Park Shelter Seventeen
Tower Grove Park
4255 Arsenal Street
St. Louis
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1137-M

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PHOTOGRAPHS
REDUCED COPY OF MEASURED DRAWING
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. MO-1187-M

TOWER GROVE PARK SHELTER SEVENTEEN

Location: Park headquarters at 4255 Arsenal Street, St. Louis, Missouri. The shelter lies 1200' east of the central cross drive, on the north side of the main drive, within the original boundaries of Tower Grove Park.

USGS Webster Groves Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 15.739130.4276530

Present Owner: City of St. Louis.

Present Use: Public picnic shelter.

Significance: The structure is a well-preserved example of the picturesque and eclectic design favored by British and American Landscape architects in the nineteenth century.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1870-1871 (Tower Grove Park Receipts and Vouchers 2/70-6/71, Articles of Agreement 11/9/70).
2. Architect: Eugene L. Greenleaf (TGP Comptroller's Report 1868, p.122, payment for drawings 6/27/71). For biographical information see the HABS report on Tower Grove Park (MO-1137).
3. Original and subsequent owners: The city of St. Louis. For property description, see the HABS report on Tower Grove Park (MO-1137)
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: William E. Bent was paid \$985 building at the second turnout, north side (Comp. 1868, p.98, 2/9/71). Lumber was supplied to him by the Eau Claire Co., of St. Louis (Comp. 1868, p.112, 5/4/71).
5. Original plans, construction, etc.: This is one of four shelters, now known as numbers seventeen, eighteen nineteen and twenty, constructed in pairs facing each other on the north and south sides of the main east-west drive. These were always intended to be picnic shelters and were also initially well shelters (Shaw Synopsis). Seventeen and eighteen are similar octagonal structures with cupolas. Nineteen and twenty are identical, T-shaped, temple forms.
6. Alterations and additions: In compliance with the City Board of Health order of 1915, the well was closed (Annual Report of Board, 1915, 1/19/1916, p.10). Probably little of the original wooden fabric remains due to innumerable repairs and replacement of rotted members.

B. Sources of Information:

a. Primary and unpublished sources:

1. Manuscripts, etc.: Henry Shaw's synopsis of Work Done in Park, 1868, 1875, 1882, and 1888; the Reports of the Board of Commissioners from 1869-1898; and TGP Receipts and Vouchers from 1867-1889 are in the custody of Park Superintendent Miss Bernice E. Gurney. They will probably be transferred from her office at 4274 Magnolia Avenue to the Shaw Manuscript Collection in the John S. Lehmann Library at the Missouri Botanical Garden, 2345 Tower Grove Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri at the end of the summer of 1974.
2. Deed Books: City Hall, Market St., St. Louis, Mo.

b. Secondary sources:

Annual Report of the Board of Commissioners Tower Grove Park.
St. Louis: Nixon-Jones Printing, 1899-1919.

_____. St. Louis: Arcade Print Shop, 1920.

_____. St. Louis: Mound City Press, 1921-1942.

_____. St. Louis: Allied Printing, 1943-1959.

McAdam, David H. Tower Grove Park. St. Louis: R.P. Studley and Co., 1883.

Prepared by: Carolyn Hamm
Field Historian
National Park Service
St. Louis, Missouri
July, 1974

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This octagonal pavilion with eight-section standing seam, straight pitched roof is surmounted by a latticed cupola.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Octagonal shape, eight 12'-wide bays; 29'-6" high to top of weather vane.
2. Foundations: Concrete reinforcement around columns.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Eight cedarwood octagonal columns painted gray support curved brackets from which the flat spans of the bays, featuring a central circular motif flow. Projecting curved brackets painted tan with gray tracery carry the overhanging fascia board and gray beveled cornice.
4. Structural system: Wooden framing.
5. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: The octagonal standing seam, low-pitched roof is topped with the octagonal drum of the cupola. The fabric is sheet metal roofing (gray).
 - b. Cupola: The octagonal cupola has lattice air vents painted tan, gray fascia and cornice and a low-pitched standing seam roof, scrolled brackets flank the base for the weathervane, which has an orb and a spearhead on top.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: Open octagonal plan.
2. Flooring: The herring-bone brick pattern is defined at the perimeter by concrete borders and exterior gutters of small limestone blocks.
3. Wall and ceiling finish: The interior spandrels are paneled. The ceiling is made of exposed rafters and wooden roofing painted light blue-green. The inside of the exposed octagonal drum and the interior of the latticed cupola have exposed structural members.

D. Site:

General setting: The pavilion lies on the north side of the main drive, 1200' east of the central cross drive, and is surrounded by trees creating a definite shady spot. It is one of four paired structures originally containing well pumps which face each other and are on the north and south edges of the main east-west Park drive.

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PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Tower Grove Park and Missouri Botanical Garden Project was jointly sponsored by the Historic American Buildings Survey of the National Park Service, the Board of Commissioners of Tower Grove Park, and the Board of Trustees of the Missouri Botanical Gardens.

Recorded under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, HABS Principal Architect, the project was conducted during the summer of 1974 and 1975 at the Historic American Buildings Survey field office at the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis.

1974 Team: Robert Harvey, Project Supervisor, (Landscape Architect); Steven Bauer, Project Foreman, architect, (University of Kansas); Carolyn Hamm, project historian, (Cornell University); Patrick Ackerman, student assistant architect, (Washington University); Suzanne Fauber, student assistant landscape architect, (University of Virginia); and Carol Macht, student assistant landscape architect, (University of Michigan).

1975 Team: Stuart Mertz, A.S.L.A., project supervisor, (landscape architect); Steven Bauer, Project Foreman, (Columbia University); Peter Dessauer, project historian, (Clemson University); Lennard A. Roberts, student assistant architect, (Cornell University); John R. Temmink, student assistant architect, (University of Virginia); and Theodore Torpy, landscape architect, (WASO).

The drawings were revised by HABS architect Paul Dolinsky, and the written data were edited by HABS Architectural Historian Denys Peter Myers, in the HABS Washington office in 1983. The photographs were taken by HABS/HAER Photographer Jet Lowe in 1983. -